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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 ARAE-00 /016 W
---------- 061493
P R 291550Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6545
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 4966

CARACAS FOR DEA AND MARTINEZ

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR, AR
SUBJECT: COMMODITY PROCUREMENT FOR NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES

REF: (A) STATE 177065; (B) STATE 186300 (NOTAL)

1. ARGENTINA HAS HAD WELL DEVELOPED AUTO INDUSTRY FOR SOME YEARS AND PROHIBITS IMPORTATION FOREIGN-MADE VEHICLES AND SPARE PARTS (EXCEPT IN RARE INSTANCES, E.G. FOR DIPLOMATIC USE). GOA ORGANIZATIONS, OF WHICH CENARESO IS ONE, ALL USE LOCALLY - MANUFACTURED AUTOS, FOR WHICH SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE ARE READILY AVAILABLE. INITIAL COST TO USG FOR THESE CARS (WITHOUT TAXES, RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHICH LIES WITH CENARESO) FAR LESS THAN COST OF IMPORTED U.S. VEHICLES. (COMPARE PROAG AND REFTEL A) ARGENTINE FORD FALCONS ARE APPROXIMATELY EQUIVALENT TO 1962 U.S. FORD FALCONS, BUT ARE PERFECTLY SUITABLE VEHICLES FOR SUCH USE AS CENARESO WOULD PUT THEM. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO BURN THE ARGENTINE GRADE OF REGULAR GASOLINE, WHICH IS A LOWER OCTANE RATING THAN U.S.-BUILT CARS CAN NORMALLY BURN EFFICIENTLY.

2. OF VARIOUS MODELS AVAILABLE HERE, THE FALCON IS LARGEST, REASONABLY-PRICED SEDAN AVAILABLE, AND CAN HANDLE SIX ADULT PASSENGERS IN RELATIVE COMFORT. EXCEPT FOR LUXURY CARS (ALSO PRINCIPALLY FORD PRODUCTS), SEDANS OF ALL OTHER ARGENTINE MANUFACTURERS (INCLUDING U.S. SUBSIDIARIES) ARE SMALLER-BASICALLY DESIGNED FOR 4 OR 5 ADULT PASSENGERS. FOR CENARESO USE, THERE IS NO QUESTION IN OUR MIND BUT THAT
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THE FALCON IS THE MOST PRACTICAL, COST-EFFECTIVE CAR WE COULD

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PURCHASE UNDER PROAG.

3. IN ORDER THAT CENARESO MAY OBTAIN DEPENDABLE, EFFICIENT SERVICE FROM VEHICLES PROVIDED UNDER PROAG, AND MAY OBTAIN SPARE PARTS AND MAINTENANCE WHEN REQUIRED, EMBASSY STRONGLY URGES THAT S/NM GRANT GEOGRAPHIC SOURCE WAIVER TO PERMIT LOCAL PROCUREMENT.

4. ADVISE SOONEST.
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